



# EP on the Move



Summer 2000

U.S. Department of Energy, Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program

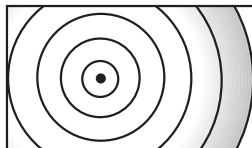
## TEPP Implementation:

Progress was the prevalent theme as the Regional Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Coordinators gathered last month for a mid-year review. The purpose of the meeting was to share information on the implementation of TEPP within each of their regions. The Coordinators discussed many useful products and innovative approaches to assisting states and tribes in preparing for DOE shipments of radioactive materials.

TEPP Coordinators provide a valuable resource to emergency responders and planners within their respective regions. In an ongoing effort to make training materials available to the states and tribes, the following schedule shows when Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) train-the-trainer (TTT) sessions will be presented. ♦

## MERRTT TRAIN-THE-TRAINER SCHEDULE

Date	Location	TEPP Contact
Sept 14 - 15	Concord, NH	Region 1
Aug 29	Memphis, TN	Region 2
July 31 - Aug 1	Shallotte, NC	Region 3
Aug 17	Argonne, IL	Region 5
Sept (TBD)	Sacramento, CA	Region 7
Sept (TBD)	Los Angeles, CA	Region 7



## Regional Activities

### TEPP Region 2

Region 2 is preparing for its second TEPP conference to be held at the Memphis Marriott in Memphis, TN on August 29-30. The first day will provide an overview of TEPP activities, with the second day devoted to a MERRTT TTT.

### TEPP Region 3

Region 3 completed the coordination of the redesign/layout of the TEPP Planning Tool procedures for medical examiners/coroners and emergency medical service responders. Both of the procedures have been placed on the TEPP web site ([www.em.doe.gov/otem](http://www.em.doe.gov/otem)). Region 3 compiled case history/lessons learned from seven transportation accidents/incidents. A brief description of the type and location of these accidents are included in the case histories. These products will be coordinated with the training topic group under the Transportation External Coordination Working Group the week of July 24.

### TEPP Region 4

In May, TEPP staff members Anna Bachicha, Stan Anderson, and Kim Monti met with nine Arizona emergency management officials, including the executive director of the Arizona emergency response commission. Other participants included personnel from the state Radiation Regulatory

Agency, and public affairs and training staff from the state's Emergency Management Division. Several useful suggestions were provided during the exchange of information and ideas, among them are:

- Partnering with DOE to use the TEPP Needs Assessment in preparation for a state-sponsored exercise this fall.
- Working with other federal agencies, such as FEMA, EPA, and DOT to help ensure training efforts are coordinated from the federal level.
- Participating in a national State Emergency Planning Committee meeting, which will have a strong focus on tribal issues and DOT participation.

The TEPP Region 4 coordinator also gave a presentation to the National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Nuclear Waste Policy Committee, at their meeting held in Albuquerque, on June 8. Indian tribes from across the country participated, as did FEMA, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and DOE Headquarters and field personnel.

### TEPP Region 5

Region 5 is preparing for its first Regional TEPP conference which will be held Aug 15-18 at the Argonne Guest House. The meeting is designed to provide attendees with information on the TEPP and other related transportation issues. The meeting will include a day of discussion about pertinent TEPP issues, MERRTT, and a comprehensive emergency public officer information training.

Region 5 recently completed documenting the POPEYE exercise in a video format. Plans are underway to conduct an exercise with emergency management personnel in the State of Nebraska this fall.

*continued on page 3*

# Lessons Learned from POPEYE Medical Responders

More than 30 federal, state, local, and industry entities gathered last October in Highland, IN for an exercise involving a transportation accident with radioactive materials. The exercise, called POPEYE (Preparedness Observation Planning Emergency Exercise), allowed organizations to coordinate actions during a simulated accident and test their emergency plans and procedures. Kevin Doolin, a POPEYE participant, provided the following article which highlights some of the lessons learned in terms of medical response and interface.

By **Kevin Doolin**

*Administrative Director, Regional Coordination Center  
Methodist Hospitals of Northwest Indiana*

Northwest Indiana serves as a crossroad for waste products and raw materials, including nuclear waste transported from the East Coast to depositories in the west. The potential for disaster is evident and we are all aware that the response to any disaster can only be as effective as the coordination of all the services needed to cope with the disaster and the proper response when life threatening decisions involving victims must be made.

The medical response to hazardous materials incidents brings its own unique set of problems to providing appropriate care. Medical response is dependent on the accuracy of hazard identification from the scene and facilities often rely on a minimum of gross decontamination in the field before patients are transported. Our greatest fear is that contaminated patients may arrive at the hospital by their own means without any field decontamination. While plans are developed to treat incoming patients with injuries and/or contamination from a hazardous materials incident, the procedures are designed with the primary goal of providing protection for the staff and patients in the emergency department and throughout the hospital. The needs of the incoming injured and contaminated patients must be weighed against the health and safety of staff and patients.

There are eight hospitals located within Lake County which are operated by four different administrations whose philosophies in dealing with hazardous materials are as diverse as the organizations themselves. All but one have implemented procedures to assess, treat and care for a patient who is contaminated but there was little coordination of efforts and limited sharing among hospitals on their respective game plans. Coordination with their community's emergency medical services (EMS) responders was good in some cases but limited in most. Into this environment, we brought the DOE Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP).

Our goal was to prepare hospital personnel to receive and provide appropriate medical care and treatment to contaminated and injured victims according to the Lake County Emergency Plan, the Draft State Radiological Response Plan and other approved plans and procedures.

A second goal was to develop and enhance the coordination of the diverse types of services needed to cope with these types of disasters.

With this in mind we hosted two radiation safety classes funded by the Lake County LEPC and open to all Lake County hospitals and EMS providers.

The first program, *Radiation Safety Awareness and Emergency Response Personnel* was a prerequisite to the



*Emergency personnel treat victim during POPEYE exercise*

second class, *Radiation Safety Operations Level*. Among the highlights of this class were the tabletop exercises during which participants were required to play roles other than their normal role as emergency responders. Having the fire chief assume the EMS command and hospital personnel assume various scene management roles provided valuable insight into the challenges of each role and the importance of working together.

In September, we offered an additional, *Radiation Emergency Refresher* class and participated in the DOE *Certification Operations Level Course*. All of this was in anticipation of and in preparation for the disaster exercise.

The EMS objective of the exercise was to "Demonstrate the adequacy of personnel, procedures, equipment and vehicles for transporting contaminated and/or injured individuals and the adequacy of medical personnel and facilities to support the operation." To meet this objective we needed to demonstrate correct priorities and procedures in response to the incident and do the following:

1. Ascertain the expected number of casualties,
2. Verify information from the scene, if possible,
3. Make appropriate notifications (safety officers, nuclear medicine, administrations, etc.),
4. Appropriately triage the patients physical and psychological needs and the type of care provided,
5. Determine diagnostic testing, including laboratory and other invasive and non-invasive diagnostic and imaging procedures needed,
6. Demonstrate proper use of personal protective equipment to provide for effective decontamination of the patient,
7. Participate in exercise evaluation to identify areas of improvement, and
8. Achieve these objectives without embarrassing yourself and/or your organization.

We had our problems. Victims delivered by helicopter came without advance notice and had to be kept on the helicopter pad until the response team could don protective gear. The victims did not have information about the chemical they were exposed to, and when that information was relayed from the scene, the hospital evaluator was not prepared to critique us on that chemical. The evaluator wanted to stop the exercise at that point but emergency department personnel felt that in a real event information errors may occur and that we should proceed with what we had. Things went smoothly from that point.

Benefits of participating in the program were numerous. The training programs were excellent and the training materials that were made available to the students were outstanding. Two textbooks were of particular value - the Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training provided through TEPP and the Hospital Emergency Department Management of Radiation and other Hazardous Material

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## STEP Forms Working Groups



The Subcommittee on Transportation Emergency Preparedness (STEP), a technical working group of the Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group (EMI SIG), held its first meeting on May 1, 2000. The meeting brought together emergency management personnel and transportation specialists to address issues that impact both areas. After approving the STEP charter, the attendees identified shared concerns and formed three working groups to achieve specific goals:

- Incorporate terms related to transportation emergency management into the glossary of terms and acronyms developed by the EMI SIG. This supports the consistent use of terms and provides a valuable reference tool.
- Design and develop a model notification kit for use in the event of a transportation emergency. Emergency notifications for shipments may require contacting personnel in other regions.
- Identify solutions to resolve issues involving the regulatory requirement for establishing a 24-hour emergency response telephone number for shipments of hazardous material.

For more information about STEP, please visit the STEP web site ([www.orau.gov/emi/step/](http://www.orau.gov/emi/step/)). If you would like to contribute to a working group or share a resource for any of the assigned tasks, please contact the STEP Chair, Darrell Lankford, at 865-576-4872, or Ella McNeil at 301-903-7284. ♦

## Governors' Designees Receiving Advance Notification of Transportation of Nuclear Waste

The NRC has updated their list of individuals receiving advance notification of nuclear waste shipments. Under 10 CFR Parts 71 and 73, advance notification to Governors or their designees is required by NRC licensees prior to transportation of certain shipments of nuclear waste and spent fuel. The updated list was printed in the June 30, 2000, Federal Register. ♦

## Regional Activities *continued from page 1*

### TEPP Region 6

Region 6 explained how the state/tribes take on the implementation of TEPP by using educational tools like the Rad Experience Trailer. The trailer is an educational tool to teach people about the nature and source of nuclear materials.

Visitors gain an understanding of basic radiation concepts. The display provides accurate information on the safety of radioactive material transportation and gives students a 'hands-on' experience with using everyday radioactive items.



*The "Rad Experience" Trailer teaches students and adults about radiation.*

Over the past two months, the trailer has made 18 visits to schools and public events in Colorado. More than 3,000 students, teachers, first responders and other visitors saw the trailer and participated in the lessons. The trailer was used at elementary and middle schools, the Girl Scout 'Festival of Fun', the Local Emergency Planning Commission meeting, and during DOE Grand Junction's "Bring Your Child to Work Day." The Rad Experience will be a part of summer science camps this summer. ♦

### POPEYE *continued from previous page*

Accidents published by FEMA's Emergency Management Institute. These publications not only provided valuable information but guided us in establishing appropriate goals and objectives. It was unfortunate that more organizations didn't take advantage of the training opportunities.

Another significant benefit was the exposure to the state and national resources available to local entities when dealing with these types of incidents. The knowledge that you're not alone, that help is available and how to appropriately access that help will certainly enhance our response in the future,

And of great importance to the local community was the collaboration between so many different local agencies brought together in this effort.

I mentioned the eight hospitals in Lake County. We are also made up of 23 different political jurisdictions, with 16 different ambulance providers from areas of heavy industrialization in the north to rural communities to the south. Any time you can bring the public safety agencies from such diverse areas together, the benefits are extraordinary. Hospitals began talking with each other, sharing response capabilities and the one hospital in our area without a planned response to hazardous material incidents has contacted the Lake County Fire Chiefs Association for assistance in developing a plan. ♦

## Broadcast of MERRTT Training

On August 23, 2000, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (EST); the MERRTT TTT session will be offered through an interactive television broadcast to numerous DOE sites. The training is targeted toward experienced instructors who might use the MERRTT CD-ROM to provide training. The training session reviews how to use the MERRTT CD-ROM to provide instruction to personnel designated as first responders to radiological transportation incidents. Experienced instructors from non-DOE entities (e.g., federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector) who have provided training related to radiological materials may also view the broadcast.

This free training is a pilot project of the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program. To find the specific down link locations, contact Yvette Garcia at 505-845-5170 ext. 322. Non-DOE entities who want to register, please contact the TEPP Coordinator in your region. ♦

## TEPP Coordinators

Region	TEPP Regional Coordinator	Phone Number/Email
1	<b>Steve Centore</b> Brookhaven Area Office	(631) 344-7309 scentore@exchange02bnl.gov
2	<b>Brady Lester</b> Oak Ridge Operations Office	(865) 576-8354 lesterb@oro.doe.gov
3	<b>Christina Edwards</b> Savannah River Operations	(803) 725-1791 christina.edwards@srs.gov
4	<b>Anna Bachicha-Reynolds</b> Albuquerque Operations Office	(505) 845-5653 ABACHICHA@DOEAL.GOV
5	<b>Noelle Kostecki</b> Chicago Operations Office	(630) 252-2398 Noelle.Kostecki@ch.doe.gov
6	<b>Stacey Madson</b> Idaho Operations Office	(208) 526-1532 MADSONSL@ID.DOE.GOV
7	<b>Mike Cornell</b> Oakland Operations Office	(925) 422-0138 mike.cornell@oak.doe.gov
8	<b>Kathy Beecher</b> Richland Operations Office	(509) 376-8519 Kathleen_A_Beecher@rl.gov
	<b>Ella McNeil</b> HQ TEPP Program Manager	(301) 903-7284 ella.mcneil@em.doe.gov



## Upcoming Events

*Aug. 3-6 • Dothan, AL*

**Alabama State Firefighters Association Conference**

For more information: AFA@alfire.com

*Aug. 9-13 • Valdosta, GA*

**Georgia State Firefighters Association Conference**

For more information: Georgia Ann Smith at (770) 914-7774

*Aug. 14-16 • Wilkes Barre, PA*

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III  
Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response (TRANSCAER)**

**HAZMAT Transportation Incident Preparedness Seminar**

For more information: Katrina Harris at (410) 676-8835 ext. 125

*August 22-27 • Greensboro, NC*

**North Carolina State Firefighters Association Conference**

For more information: Chief Jimmy Barrow at (336) 996-4885

*Aug. 20-25 • West Palm Beach, FL*

**National Emergency Management Association 2000 Annual Conference**

Additional information: www.nemaweb.org

*Aug. 25-28 • Dallas, TX*

**Fire Rescue International**

Additional information: pdasst@iafc.org

*Sept. 24-26 • Little Rock, AR*

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern States Energy Board**

Additional information: www.sseb.org

*Sept. 25-27 • Erie, PA*

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*Oct. 1 • Charleston, SC*

**Southern Emergency Response Council (SERC)**

Additional information: www.sseb.org

*Oct. 15-19 • Las Vegas, NV*

**Cooperative Hazardous Materials Enforcement Development (COHMED)**

**Fall Conference**

For more information: www.COHMED.org

*Nov. 28-30 • Norfolk, VA*

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